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Roger Williams University School of Law

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Newsroom

R.I. Legal Community Celebrates PBC

Top lawyers, judges, business executives and community advocates recently gathered to promote, strengthen and celebrate the Pro Bono Collaborative.

Bristol, R.I., June 10, 2010: Top lawyers, judges, business executives and community advocates recently gathered at the State Lounge in Providence to promote, strengthen and celebrate the **Pro Bono Collaborative (PBC)** at Roger Williams University School of Law.



The Pro Bono Collaborative (PBC) is an innovative organization that addresses the legal needs and rights of low-income, at-risk Rhode Islanders and the organizations that serve them.

Generous sponsors – including **Edwards Angell Palmer & Dodge LLP; Hinckley Allen & Snyder LLP; IKON Document Solutions, Inc.; Pannone Lopes Devereaux & West LLP; and Joseph and Cathleen Whelan** – helped the organization’s first fundraiser pull in more than \$25,000.

“Accessible free legal service and advocacy is critical to ensuring the safety, security and health of the most vulnerable among us,” said PBC director **Eliza Vorenberg**. “The PBC – the only organization of its kind in Rhode Island – addresses those needs through a unique collaboration between law firms, law students and non-profit organizations that serve low-income and marginalized individuals and families.”

“The PBC provides the perfect avenue for our attorneys to work with community-based organizations in delivering pro bono legal services to needy Rhode Islanders,” agreed **Stephen M. Prignano**, a partner at Edwards Angell Palmer & Dodge LLP and an event committee member. “EAPD is proud of its association and support of the Pro Bono Collaborative and the excellent work it is doing in bringing together law firms, community-based organizations and law students to provide important pro bono services.”

Notable attendees included Rhode Island Supreme Court **Chief Justice Paul A. Suttell**, Rhode Island District Court **Chief Judge Jeanne E. Lafazia**, Workers' Compensation Court **Chief Judge George E. Healy**, Providence **Police Chief Dean Esserman**, attorney and Providence mayoral candidate **Angel Tavares**, and **RWU President Dr. Roy J. Nirschel**, among others.

The Pro Bono Collaborative, housed at Roger Williams University School of Law, works with eleven of the largest law firms in Rhode Island and more than 25 community organizations, serving thousands of low-income Rhode Islanders. To date the PBC has matched law firms and law students with community organization to provide pro bono legal service in 29 projects that fall into four areas: direct representation legal clinics, legal education workshops, legislative research and counsel and non-profit legal counseling.